

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Regarding claim 6, the prior art of record discloses methods for forming holes in a composite panel but does not teach a method wherein the location is notched, a hole is formed in the thermoplastic foam, and the covering layer is folded into the hole. Van Dreumel teaches that a hole is cut via drill but does not teach or suggest notching the layer and then folding the skin layer into the hole.
3. Regarding claim 14, the prior art of record discloses methods for forming holes in a composite panel but does not teach a deformation method employing a deformation and consolidation stamp. The prior art teaches forming holes via drill (van Dreumel) and ultrasonic tool (Gorski) but does not teach or suggest using a deformation/consolidation stamp sequence as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT DYE whose telephone number is (571)270-

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7059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Del Sole can be reached on (571)272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RCD/

/Joseph S. Del Sole/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791